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AMUSEMENTS

GRAND.

Mrs. Vernon Castle, Frank Timney, Bernard Brannville, Elizabeth Brice, Charles King, Harry Kelly, Harry Ellis, along with numerous other stage notables will come to the Grand Opera House Monday night, January 31st, to perform for the first time in this city, Charles Dillingham's highly successful musical comedy, "Watch Your Step," then opening for a week's engagement, which will include a Wednesday and Saturday matinees. Six months of crowded houses is "Watch Your Step" record in New York at the New Amsterdam Theatre. Manhattan audiences laughed themselves hoarse with Frank Timney and applauded the dancing of Mrs. Castle to the echo; newspapers and theatres emphatically went on record as believing the piece to be the most novel, most modern and most hugely enjoyable musical entertainment that had been staged in six years. Now it has begun a tour of the largest cities of the East and Middle West, and since it will be performed here identically as it was done in New York, there is plenty of reason for predicting a local engagement that will be memorable because of the size and enthusiasm of the audience.

The "Watch Your Step" score was written by Irving Berlin. It contains half a dozen or more numbers which have more firmly than ever established him in his place of the most popular song writer of today. "That Syncopated Walk," "A One Horse Town," "Since I Discovered You," "Lead Me to Love," and "Play a Simple Melody" are features from "Watch Your Step" that are being sung, played and whistled from the Atlantic to the Pacific Coast. It is the manner in which these numbers are done in "Watch Your Step" that is in a great measure responsible for their present popularity.

"Watch Your Step" has a story—of sorts; it was written by Harry B. Smith—but Mrs. Castle and Timney, Brannville, Brice and King and the other featured entertainers have so much that is unique and characteristic to do, and such a comparatively short time in which to do it, that there is not much room for a story. But it is there, all right, and when Mrs. Castle is not dancing, and Frank Timney is not taking the audience into his confidence about his summer home or his last trip to Europe, they play parts in it. "Watch Your Step" justifies its success by its novelty, its humor, its grace, its speed, its variety. It is so up-to-the-minute that it is just a little bit ahead of it.

LYRIC.

When "Within the Loop" opens a week's engagement at the Lyric Theatre next Sunday evening, with matinees on Wednesday and Saturday, local amusement seekers are to be treated to a musical novelty of genuine note. It comes here heralded as one of the biggest of the recent revues, and brings a cast of one hundred and twenty-five, principals and chorus. There are eight massive scenes and twenty odd song numbers. This immense production was especially put together for Chicago, where it ran for many weeks at the new Chicago Theatre. The very names of the chief fun-makers are sufficient in themselves to guarantee an entertainment of more than ordinary merit, merriment and melody. They comprise such favorites of musical comedy and high-class vaudeville fame as Irene Franklin and Burton Greene, James Hussey and Jack Boyle, Anna Wheaton, Frances Kennedy, Will Philbrick, Gilbert Gregory, James Duffy, Mercedes Lorenz and Henry Coote. The chorus is said to have been selected with the idea of securing as many fresh faces and forms of youth and beauty as possible, while for the music it is only necessary to say that it was written by Harry Carroll to the lyrics of Ballard McDonald. These two song writers have, for the past six years, been supplying many of the most sensational song hits of the time, chief among them being "Syncopated Susie," "The Girl in the Heart of Maryland," "On the Mississippi" and "Down in Bombom Bay." It is claimed, however, that they have done their best work in "Within the Loop," for which they have written twenty odd numbers, among the most striking being "The Automat Cabaret," "The College Inn Rag," "My Lady of the Lake," "I'll Cling to You" and "The Lakeshore Limited." All of these songs have been given embellishments out of the ordinary, and the costumes will be a feature of the production. That they will be a revelation may easily be guessed when it is stated that they were all designed by the artist who has made the last two Winter Garden shows so much talked about.

The Messrs. Shubert are sponsors for "Within the Loop," and have seen to it that it maintains the same high standard of excellence of all their big musical offerings.

EMPRESS.

A decided and potential step in advance of present-day vaudeville will be found in next week's extraordinary show at the Empress Theatre. The entire seven acts will be found worthy of decided approval. In other words, it is marvelous vaudeville that will be offered here.

The supreme attraction will be Sam Curtis and the Golf Girls. Not only is this act richly staged a gorgeously costumed, but a company of ten song soloists and fun-makers, both men and women, make the music fest lively, animated and full of brilliant attractiveness.

Another act of splendid merit is one that will create more than the average enthusiasm; indeed, it is counted on to cause a furor because of its originality and sterling excellence. It is Mlle. Irene's Circus, including Muggins, the elephant, who does everything but talk. Rhoda Royal, famous among arena show folk, presents this truly sensational feature, and it is a radical departure from anything ever witnessed in a theatre. This output of the sawdust ring is a revelation in unbeatable entertainment.

The rest of the bill includes the following excellent acts: West and Boyd, in a budget of rollicking harmony and screaming chatter; Tom Brantford, "the human band," who is, truly, a one-man orchestra; Scharf and Ramser, who sure can sing some; the Aerial Patts, who feature speedy and sensational doings aloft; and two reels of comedy photofilms.

OLYMPIC THEATER.

Two funnier burlesques than those offered in "Hello Paris," which will come to the Olympic Theater during the week of February 6th, certainly never existed. They were both produced by Will Roehm and afford splendid opportunities for the funmaking of Geo. A. Clark and Edward Crawford, two very clever comedians, recruited from the rank of "big time" vaudeville. The chorus is said to consist of some of the prettiest maids than any burlesque show has ever been fortunate enough to possess. In fact, the entire production is one that no one who likes beauty and fun should miss.

Added attraction will be plantation and battle royal on Tuesday night; chorus girl waltz contest on Wednesday night; sparring contests on Thursday night; a real amateur show on Friday night; and the big country store on Saturday night.

BIG GAINS BY WESTERN UNION.

New York.—The annual report of the Western Union Telegraph Company, with December estimates included, shows enormous gains in earnings. The total revenue was \$52,356,286, against \$47,463,952 in 1915. The net income of \$10,218,371 represents an increase of \$4,816,986. The company's balance for 1915 of \$11,553,969 shows a gain of \$4,485,332.

Compared with these gains is the report of the Commission on Industrial Relations relative to the treatment of workers by telegraph companies. It is stated that "the workers employed by the two principal telegraph companies (Western Union and Postal) are not only underpaid, as admitted by the highest officials in their testimony before the commission, but subject to many abuses, such as the denial of proper periods of relief while on duty, the establishment of arbitrary speed rates which frequently result in overstrain, the arbitrary discharge of employees without notice for any cause or no cause, the employment of young boys for messenger service under conditions which can only result in their moral corruption and the employment of women for telegraph service at night."

WORD "ACCIDENT" IS DEFINED.

Madison, Wis.—The word "accident," as used in the Workmen's Compensation law, must be given a broad and inclusive meaning, rules the State Supreme Court in the case of Brystrom Bros. vs. Eric Jacobson. The case arose when a mason, in lifting a block, strained the muscles of the right side of his body. The company contended this was not an accident within the meaning of the statute. Justice Marshall delivered the opinion of the court. He said that the English and American authorities quite generally agree on the broad interpretation of terms in workmen's compensation laws and that this court considered the legislature intended a broad interpretation of the word.

YOUNGSTOWN STRIKE ENDS

Youngstown, O.—The strike of Republic Iron and Steel company's employees came to a close when committees of the strikers and the company officials agreed to the following: Wages of skilled workers to be increased approximately 10 per cent, common laborers to be increased from 19½ to 22 cents an hour; two hours to be allowed for overtime if the overtime exceeds five hours; future grievances to be handled by the shop committee and no discrimination because of union affiliation.

The committee representing the workers consisted of three members of the Federal Labor union, organized by the A. F. of L.; three from the electrical workers and three from the machinists. The strike resulted in forming large unions of common laborers, electrical workers, machinists, steam engineers and stationary firemen.

The settlement affects 18,000. About 8,000 of these were advised with during the strike, and of this number 40 per cent have been organized.

Washington.—In a letter to A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison, Organizer Flynn states that East Youngstown is an incorporated city, separate from Youngstown, and that it has only one mill, the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company, which employs about 10,000 men who speak 20 different languages. The organizer says it is estimated that about 80 per cent of these workers are foreign speaking. East Youngstown has 9,000 inhabitants, and about 450 voters.

Washington.—Low wages, exploitation and opposition to trade unionism caused the strikes and riot at East Youngstown is the verdict of George P. West, representative of the industrial relations commission who investigated the Ohio industrial upheaval, and reports in part:

"During times of depression, including nearly half of the time during the past eight years, the steel workers and their families have been kept alive by charity. The Youngstown Sheet and Tube company doled out the privilege of working three days a week to family men whose families were found to be destitute, after investigations, and besides distributed baskets of food. The cost of these baskets was later deducted from the man's pay check, after he had been permitted to work three days a week.

The riot was the natural outgrowth of a spontaneous, unorganized rebellion against an economic and industrial regime so oppressive and brutalizing as to overshadow the immediate provocation and render it comparatively insignificant.

"Evidence is conclusive that the wage policy of the steel corporation has been based on the existence of a huge surplus of unskilled labor constantly replenished from Europe. So long as the corporation could maintain, with the aid of charity, two men for every job, discontent was smothered.

"During all these years the men lived in squalid, crowded rooms. Overcrowding and poor diet aided the rapid spread of trachoma, a disease always associated with dire poverty. The epidemic became so threatening that the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company became alarmed lest it would close its plant, and spent thousands of dollars to check the disease and restore the human part of its equipment to efficiency."

EIGHT-HOUR LAW UPHELD.

Seattle, Wash.—Judge Smith of the King county superior court has ruled that the state eight-hour public works law is legal and that the commissioners of this county have the right to establish a minimum wage of \$2.25 a day for county road work.

The so-called "station work" system of sub-letting road contracts was declared to be an evasion of the eight-hour law and the court called attention to the contract signed by illiterate workers who did not know what they were signing. This was held to be contrary to public policy and was an attempt to defeat the plain intent of the state law and the minimum wage order of the county commissioners. The road contractors were prosecuted by Labor Commissioner Olson and other state officials, who insist that a contrary ruling recently made by Judge Wright of the Thurston county superior court was not a fair test, as that case was not tried on its merits and would not, therefore, be upheld by the state supreme court. Under the Wright decision large employers of labor in logging and other industries could call their workers "sub-contractors" and defeat the workmen's compensation law.

State officials are confident that the decision of Judge Smith will be upheld by the state supreme court, if the contractors appeal.

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LABOR TEMPLE DEDICATED.

Dallas, Tex.—A large assemblage was present at the dedication of the Dallas labor temple, which consists of three stories and a basement. The chief address was made by Governor James E. Ferguson, who referred to the gains made by organized labor and who made an eloquent plea for organization of the workers. He said: "As I have done before, I advise every laboring man to join some union. If you think you are smarter than the average laboring man, join the union and help improve it; if you think you are not as smart as the average union man, then come into the union and let the union take care of you."

President McClary of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers also spoke. State Labor Commissioner of Labor Woodman and a large delegation of trade unionists from other cities were present. The building, which is of brick, is the only one of its kind in the southwest. Practically every one of the 58 Dallas trade unions have secured quarters in the new structure.

MACHINISTS WIN STRIKE.

Hamilton, Ohio.—Machinists have won their strike for shorter hours, started last October, when 1,060 suspended work. Before the strike machinists and machine shop employees were working 55½ hours per week, straight time for overtime and little recognition of shop committees or the union. The agreement provides for a 50-hour week, time and one-half for overtime and an understanding on the question of shop committees. All court cases against the strikers will be quashed. The machinists say they will have the eight-hour day not later than April 1.

MINE HAZARDS REDUCED.

Columbus, Ohio.—A report by John M. Roan, chief mine inspector of the industrial commission, shows that in 1915 one out of every 758 employed in the coal mines was killed in mine accidents during the year, or one person for every 300,000 tons of coal mined. The total number of fatal accidents in mines during the year was 62, a falling off of nearly two-thirds since 1913.

DODGE CITY CHARTER MANDATE.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 22.—Trade unionists are demanding that city officials comply with the new municipal charter mandate that all city employees shall receive the "prevailing rate of wages." Organized workers feared favoring inserting "union scale of wages," because of possible court annulment, but during the campaign the intent of the "prevailing rate of wages" provision was thoroughly understood by citizens. The legislative committee of the Central Trades and Labor Unions is now urging city officials to appropriate money sufficient to comply with the law, but the plan is given little support. The committee reports to the central body:

"Statements have been made by the city officials that the increases demanded by organized labor will increase the city pay-roll between 15 and 20 per cent, or approximately \$100,000, and that an increase of 2 cents may be necessary in the tax rate to meet this advance. In this connection we wish to note that these officials did not show any conscientious scruples in accepting the handsome increases in salaries given them by the new city charter."

SATURDAY VERDICT LEGAL.

Columbus, O.—The State Supreme Court has refused to review the findings of a Cincinnati jury, which awarded a woman a verdict of \$500 against W. H. Pugh on a note. Attorneys for Pugh raised the question that the jury might have hastily agreed on a verdict in order to get away and enjoy the Saturday half-holiday, which is legal in this State.

The Supreme Court declined to be a party to this original attempt to thwart justice.

IRON MOLDERS' STRIKE ENDS.

Worcester, Mass.—The strike that has been in progress since last June among iron molders employed at the plant of the Rice, Barton & Fales Machine and Iron Company has been settled. It is stated that all strikebreakers will be dismissed, and working conditions improved.

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